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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2, INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File

COMMENTS FOR EIC CONCERNING BURMA AND INDO-CHINA

1. Burma

a. What, if any, supplies are now reaching the KMT troops in Burma, in what quantity and by what route?

Very little reliable information is available in G-2 regarding the supplies reaching the KMT in Burma. Various reports from Burma and Thailand indicate that at least a small flow of supplies is continuing to reach the KMT, reportedly by air. In view of the amount of traffic in arms in Burma, the KMT forces have undoubtedly received some help. Contacts between the Karen forces and the KMT have been frequently reported and it is believed some arms and ammunition have been purchased from them by the KMT.

b. What are the future intentions of the KMT troops in Burma? Is there, for example, anything in reports that they have been exploring "escape routes" through Moulmein?

Future intentions of the KMT are entirely unknown but it seems probable that for the time being, they fully intend to remain in Burma. We have not seen the reports of their exploring "escape routes" through Moulmein and would appreciate information available [redacted] regarding this possibility. The present reported southward movement of a KMT group from Monghsat may be connected with such an "escape route" but this is pure speculation as far as G-2 is concerned at the present time.

c. Is there any truth in the report that American Freebooters are engaged in the supply of arms to the Karens?

There is no firm evidence as to the participation of either Americans or other foreigners in Thailand in arms traffic. There have been several reports of wolfram smuggled from Karen held territory into Thailand and it is possible that some American "freebooters" have been attracted by this trade.

2. Indo-China

a. Do the Russians maintain any organization to supervise supplies in the China-F.I.C. border area? How far do they leave the Chinese a free hand in advising the Viet Minh on both military and political matters?

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The most informative note recently received on the subject of the Soviet role in Indo-China was contained in the French reply to the U.S. questionnaire tabled at the Third Tripartite Intelligence Conference, held in Saigon 26-28 June 1952 (U.S. question 15). A few additional remarks are included in Chapter III of the French study on Sino-Viet Minh relations (1950-June 1952), also distributed to the participants in this Conference.

b. Is there any evidence of how far the Viet Minh coordinate their policy with (1) the Chinese and (2) the Russians?

Similarly, the most thorough study of over-all Viet Minh policy coordination with Communist China and the U.S.S.R. is contained in the above-mentioned French study. Copies of the proceedings of this Conference are doubtless available [REDACTED] by now.

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